

CLAIMS

1. A low pressure discharge lamp having a double helix shape comprising
a lamp base and an envelope connected to the lamp base,

5 the envelope having a phosphor coating on an interior surface thereof and
containing a gas fill energizable to a discharge state by electrical voltage, the
envelope including discharge tube sections wound helically about a
longitudinal axis and fitted into each other as a double-start thread,

the discharge tube sections having first end portions and second end portions,

10 the first end portions being closer to the lamp base and each having a gas-
tight sealing and electrodes in the sealing for receiving the electric voltage,

the second end portions being farther off the lamp base and each having a
gas-tight sealing,

15 said second end portions being bent inwardly from a pitch of the helix and
extending next to each other spaced apart by a clearance,

a passage formed between said second end portions and spaced apart by a
distance from the sealing of each said second end portion.

20 2. The discharge lamp of claim 1 in which said second end portions are bent
inwards diametrically opposite to each other from the pitch of the helix.

3. The discharge lamp of claim 1 in which the passage is formed by bridging.

4. The discharge lamp of claim 1 in which the passage is formed by blow molding.

5. The discharge lamp of claim 1 in which the second end portions include at least approximately straight tube sections, and the passage is formed between the straight tube sections.

6. The discharge lamp of claim 1 in which the sealing of each second end portion is at least approximately hemispherical.

7. The discharge lamp of claim 1 in which the passage has an axis, and the distance between the axis of the passage and a tip of the sealing of the second end portions is 1-4 times the discharge tube diameter.

8. The discharge lamp of claim 1 in which the lamp base is provided with a threaded portion suitable for connecting the lamp mechanically and electrically and a ballast circuit is located therein.

9. The discharge lamp of claim 1 in which the lamp base has a plug suitable for connecting the lamp mechanically and pins suitable for connecting the lamp electrically to a ballast circuit forming a unit separated from the lamp.